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C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 001252

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TAGS: [UNGA](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [EUN](#) [CU](#) [UN](#) [EZ](#)  
SUBJECT: CZECHS ON UNGA AND CUBA RESOLUTION

REF: A. STATE 163498  
[1](#)B. STATE 168341

Classified By: Political-Economic Counselor Michael Dodman, for reasons  
1.4 (B) & (D)

[1](#)1. (U) Polec Counselor and Poloff met October 6 with Czech  
MFA UN Department Director Jan Kara to discuss Czech  
impressions of UNGA to date, and specifically Ref A proposal  
on the Cuba embargo resolution (note that Ref B was received  
subsequent to our meeting. Several issues in Ref B were  
covered in our meeting and are reported below; remainder will  
be covered in a follow-up meeting).

#### UNGA Resolution on Cuba embargo -----

[1](#)2. (C) Kara was skeptical about the USG proposal to include  
language condemning the human rights situation in Cuba in the  
expected UNGA Resolution condemning the U.S. embargo of Cuba.  
He stressed that the Czechs fully support the human rights  
language the USG has proposed (and confirmed that he has  
reviewed the proposal with the MFA Human Rights Department,  
with whom we had discussed Ref A on September 29). Kara  
noted that the USG proposal would be discussed among EU  
members in the upcoming COHUM meeting (October 10) and CONUN  
(October 11). He could not predict whether or not the EU as  
a whole would support, but felt that regardless the idea had  
no chance of success in the UNGA, where he expects most  
members will object on procedural grounds to a proposal to  
add human rights criticisms to the embargo resolution.  
Acknowledging that no progress on Cuba could be expected in  
the Human Rights Council, Kara wondered why the USG was not  
proposing to introduce a resolution on Cuban in the Third  
Committee.

#### Guatemala versus Venezuela -----

[1](#)3. (C) Kara, who had just returned from several weeks in New  
York, said he could not predict the outcome of the October 16  
vote for the UNSC. He said that the Czech Republic remains a  
strong supporter of Guatemala, and confirmed that the Czechs  
are working to lobby other countries to vote against  
Venezuela. When pressed for details, Kara said that Czech UN  
Ambassador Martin Palous was undertaking the effort  
personally in New York, and could provide no details on  
specific targets or results. (Note: Palous, the former  
Czech Ambassador in Washington, is a former dissident and  
strong supporter of human rights, notably in Cuba. We  
believe he will be an passionate advocate for votes against  
Venezuela.)

#### Czech UNSC campaign -----

¶4. (C) Kara discussed the Czech campaign for a UNSC seat in 2007, estimating that the Czech Republic has secured 80 votes for its bid as opposed to 30 for Croatia (the Czechs' only rival for the seat). Kara thought the Croatians probably lost votes as a result of President Mesic's visit to Cuba for the Non-Aligned Summit.

New Secretary General

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¶5. (C) Kara had little to say about the likely new SYG, except to note that FM Ban did not have the force of personality that had proven important to the successes of previous SYGs.  
GRABER